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SOURCE Hsin-wen Pao.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS IN COMMUNIST AREAS FACING DIFFICULTIES

o. In the Communist-controlled area of northern Kiangsu, religious schools are experiencing many difficulties due to increasing Communist interference. Mission hospitals and clinics are facing shortages of supplies because they are being taken by the Communists and in many cases the hospitals and clinics are being heavily taxed.

Stricter supervision is imposed on middle schools than on elementary schools by the Communists. Missionaries in charge and the faculties are being replaced so Communists can take over the administration. Every effort is being made to create antagonism and disloyalty among the students toward their former teachers.

The Communists' aim is to restrict religious devotion and activities among the students. They frequently plant secret agents among students to check their activities. Anyone showing leanings toward the church is rebuked. Special vestments used by girls dedicated to religious professions are ridiculed. Conscientious students complain that in such an atmosphere of doubt and suspicion they cannot make progress in their studies.

Under Communist supervision, the schools are required to devote much time to teaching the life of Mao Tse-tung and his exploits as a course in literature. Two hours a week are spent in civics or politics, during which the theory of Communism is taught. The use of all former history texts is forbidden.

A church worker who recently returned from the Communist area said that it would be extremely difficult to keep religious schools open in the face of increasing danger in travel and of financial problems. He believed that by autumn the majority of his church schools will be forced to close their doors.

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